**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

**WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report
May 2005**

1. WSDOT Helps to Preserve Runway at Methow Valley State Airport
Crews from WSDOT resealed Methow Valley State Airport's 5,050-foot runway and its associated taxiways and ramps. The new protective coating follows crack sealing work that WSDOT completed in early spring. The runway coating serves to protect the pavement from deterioration and give the airport runway that "just like new" look for several years. Later this month, paint crews are scheduled to reapply the runway markings, taxiway lines, and ramp tie down markings at the airport. Of the 16 state-operated airports, Methow Valley is the only Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified airport eligible for federal grants to maintain its pavement.

2. Lake Wenatchee Preparing for Fire Season
Jim Scott, WSDOT State Airports Maintenance Supervisor, and his team of volunteers are considering several ways to improve the runway surface and parking areas at Lake Wenatchee State Airport. Improvements are necessary because these areas are used to support emergency fire fighting operations. Lake Wenatchee State Airport is used annually as a strategic firebase to battle forest fires in the central Cascades. With the dry summers and extensive helicopter operations, the airport would greatly benefit from an irrigation system and improved seeding program. Currently, when the strip is used as a firebase, the forest service must water the runway several times a day to repel dust and protect helicopters and equipment from damage. Other improvements under consideration for Lake Wenatchee include security fencing, runway lighting, and a 24-hour web camera.

3. Director Sibold Sends Security Survey to States
Recently appointed as the new Chair for the National Association of State Aviation
Officials (NASAO) Security Committee, WSDOT Aviation Director, John Sibold, is
conducting a nationwide security survey with every state aviation director in the nation.
The survey covers security policies, programs, plans, and grants. So far, 50% of the
states have responded. Sibold and the Security Committee will use the results in future
discussions with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to prevent
unnecessary attempts to regulate security at general aviation airports.

4. "Making Every Dollar Count" Drives State Aviation Priorities
 Recently, the Washington State Legislature determined the state's highest aviation
priority by designating $433,000 in the Aeronautics Account for airport paving. The
funding is especially important because it will be used to leverage federal funds for
airport maintenance projects. The Legislature also directed Washington State
Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation to protect Air Search and Rescue
services as well as plan for long-term airport facility needs.

Taking effect July 1, 2005, the one-cent increase in the aviation fuel tax will provide
additional revenue for airport paving. However, this will be offset by the elimination of
state pilot and mechanic registration fees. Consequently, WSDOT Aviation's overall
revenues will increase only slightly. The result – WSDOT will have to make every dollar
count and focus resources on the highest priorities in all programs.

WSDOT Aviation is currently developing its business plan and program budgets for the
next biennium, which runs July 2005 through June 2007. Key Aviation programs include
Local Airport Aid, Air Search and Rescue, State Airport Maintenance, Planning and
Education. Under the new law, WSDOT Aviation is appropriated $5.6 million in revenue
for aviation programs during the 2005-2007 biennium. The proposed business plan will
identify program priorities, and help to strategically determine how the department uses
available resources with the greatest emphasis on airport grant projects.

More information is available at:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/news/2005/05_0526EveryDollarCount.htm